

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vent, which together with one or more building apertures,  
provides a route for gas flow through a building surface, the vent  
5 comprising:

a base member having a vent aperture through a surface  
thereof, the base member comprising a generally planar mounting  
flange on at least a portion of a perimeter thereof for mounting  
the base member within a building surface, wherein when the  
10 base member is mounted within a building surface, at least a  
portion of the mounting flange extends between an internal  
building surface layer and one or more external building surface  
layers and the vent aperture is in fluid communication with the  
one or more building apertures; and,

15 a vent cover which is removably mountable to the base  
member when the base member is mounted within a building  
surface, the vent cover comprising a hood member which, when  
the vent cover is mounted on the base member, projects  
downwardly and outwardly from the base member for conveying  
20 moisture away from the vent aperture.

2. The vent of claim 1 wherein the base member comprises an  
outwardly projecting intermediate base flange which is spaced  
apart from the vent aperture, the intermediate base flange  
25 comprising a bottom drainage flange which projects outwardly  
and downwardly from beneath the vent aperture for conveying  
moisture on a surface thereof, wherein when the base member is  
mounted within a building surface, an outermost edge of the  
bottom drainage flange projects outwardly past the outermost one  
30 of the one or more external building surface layers.

3. The vent of claim 2 wherein the intermediate base flange comprises a pair of outwardly projecting side portions which extend upwardly from above the bottom drainage flange on either side of the vent aperture.  
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4. The vent of claim 3 wherein the intermediate base flange comprises an outwardly projecting upper portion located above the vent aperture and extending between the two side portions of the intermediate base flange.  
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5. The vent of claim 4 wherein the upper portion of the intermediate base flange comprises a transversely extending main section and a pair of wells, each well extending downwardly and transversely from a corresponding transverse end of the main section to meet with a corresponding one of the side portions of the intermediate base flange below an upwardmost end of the corresponding side portion.  
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6. The vent of claim 2 wherein the intermediate base flange comprises an outwardly projecting, transversely extending upper portion located above the vent aperture.  
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7. The vent of claim 4 wherein, when the vent cover is mounted to the base member, an upper surface of the hood member fits under the upper portion of the intermediate base flange.  
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8. The vent of claim 4 wherein, when the base member is mounted within a building surface, the one or more external building surface layers abut against the side portions and the upper portion of the intermediate base flange.  
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9. The vent of claim 2 wherein, when the base member is mounted within a building surface, the one or more external building surface layers abut against an undersurface of the bottom drainage flange.
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10. The vent of claim 3 wherein the bottom drainage flange comprises two side edges located on either side of the vent aperture and wherein the side portions of the intermediate base flange extend upwardly from above the bottom drainage flange at locations that are transversely closer to the vent aperture than the side edges of the bottom drainage flange.
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11. The vent of claim 10 wherein each side edge of the bottom drainage flange comprises a dam which projects upwardly from the side edge for preventing moisture received on an upper surface of the bottom drainage flange from travelling transversely past the side edges of the bottom drainage flange.
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12. The vent of claim 3 comprising a pair of dams which project upwardly from an upper surface of the bottom drainage flange at locations aligned with the side portions of the intermediate base flange for preventing moisture received on the upper surface of the bottom drainage flange from travelling transversely past the side edges of the bottom drainage flange.
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13. The vent of claim 1 comprising one or more releasable fasteners for removably holding the vent cover to the base member.
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14. The vent of claim 13 wherein at least one of the one or more releasable fasteners comprises a snap together connection.
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15. The vent of claim 2 wherein the vent cover comprises an apertured grille which extends inwardly from an outer edge of the hood member.
- 5 16. The vent of claim 15 comprising one or more ribs which extend upwardly from and outwardly along an upper surface of the bottom drainage flange at spaced apart locations, each rib comprising a notch for receiving an inward edge of the grille.
- 10 17. The vent of claim 1 wherein the base member comprises an interior base flange, an inner portion of which projects inwardly into the one or more building apertures.
- 15 18. The vent of claim 17 wherein the interior base flange comprises an outwardly projecting outer portion.
19. The vent of claim 17 wherein the interior base flange is located on a perimeter of the vent aperture.
- 20 20. The vent of claim 1 comprising a damper member which is pivotally coupled to the base member.
21. The vent of claim 20 wherein the vent aperture is sized to prevent the damper member from pivoting therethrough.
- 25 22. The vent of claim 20 wherein the damper member is removably coupled to the base member.

23. The vent of claim 22 wherein the damper member is removably and pivotally coupled to the base member by one or more snap-together hinge assemblies.
- 5 24. The vent of claim 1 comprising a damper member which is pivotally coupled to the vent cover.
25. The vent of claim 1 wherein the mounting flange projects from a transverse side of the vent aperture to form a transverse part of the perimeter of the base member.
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26. The vent of claim 1 wherein the mounting projects from a vertical side of the vent aperture to form a vertical part of the perimeter of the base member.
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27. A vent, which together with one or more building apertures, provides a route for gas flow through a building surface, the vent having a base member mountable within the building surface, the base member comprising:
- 20 a generally planar mounting flange on at least a portion of a perimeter of the base member for mounting the base member within the building surface, wherein when the base member is mounted within the building surface, at least a portion of the mounting flange extends between an internal building surface layer and one or more external building surface layers;
- 25 a vent aperture in fluid communication with the one or more building apertures when the base member is mounted within the building surface; and
- 30 an outwardly projecting intermediate base flange which is spaced apart from the vent aperture, the intermediate base flange

5 comprising a bottom drainage flange which projects outwardly and downwardly from beneath the vent aperture for conveying moisture on a surface thereof, wherein when the base member is mounted within the building surface, an outermost edge of the bottom drainage flange projects outwardly past an outermost one of the one or more external building surface layers.

10 28. The vent of claim 27 wherein the intermediate base flange comprises a pair of outwardly projecting side portions which extend upwardly from above the bottom drainage flange on either side of the vent aperture.

15 29. The vent of claim 28 wherein the intermediate base flange comprises an outwardly projecting upper portion located above the vent aperture which extends between the two side portions.

20 30. The vent of claim 29 comprising a vent cover which is removably mountable to the base member when the base member is mounted within the building surface, the vent cover comprising a hood member which, when the vent cover is mounted on the base member, projects downwardly and outwardly from the base member for conveying moisture away from the vent aperture.

25 31. The vent of claim 30 wherein, when the vent cover is mounted to the base member, an upper surface of the hood member fits under the upper portion of the intermediate base flange.

30 32. The vent of claim 29 wherein, when the base member is mounted within the building surface, the one or more external building surface layers abut against the side portions and the upper portion of the intermediate base flange.

33. The vent of claim 27 wherein, when the base member is mounted within the building surface, the one or more external building surface layers abut against an undersurface of the bottom drainage flange.
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34. The vent of claim 28 wherein the bottom drainage flange comprises two side edges located on either side of the vent aperture and wherein the side portions of the intermediate base flange extend upwardly from above the bottom drainage flange at locations that are transversely closer to the vent aperture than the side edges of the bottom drainage flange.
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35. The vent of claim 34 wherein each side edge of the bottom drainage flange comprises a dam which projects upwardly from the side edge for preventing moisture received on an upper surface of the bottom drainage flange from travelling transversely past the side edges of the bottom drainage flange.
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36. The vent of claim 27 wherein the base member comprises an interior base flange, an inner portion of which projects inwardly into the one or more building apertures.
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37. A vent, which together with one or more building apertures, provides a route for gas flow through a building surface, the vent comprising:
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- means for mounting a base member between an internal building surface layer and one or more external building surface layers, the base member comprising a vent aperture for fluid communication with the one or more building apertures; and
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- means for covering and conveying moisture away from the vent aperture which is removably mountable to the base member

when the base member is mounted between the building surface layers.

- 5           38.   The vent of claim 37 comprising means for conveying moisture from within the building surface outwardly past an outermost one of the one or more external building surface layers.
- 10          39.   The vent of claim 38 wherein the means for conveying moisture comprises a bottom drainage flange which extends downwardly and outwardly from beneath the vent aperture.
- 15          40.   The vent of claim 39 wherein the means for conveying moisture comprises a pair of outwardly projecting side flanges which extend upwardly from above the bottom drainage flange on either side of the vent aperture.
- 20          41.   The vent of claim 40 wherein the means for conveying moisture comprises an outwardly projecting upper flange located above the vent aperture and extending between the two side flanges.
- 25          42.   A vent comprising:  
            a base member having a substantially planar mounting flange on at least a portion of its perimeter capable of being received between layers of a building surface and a vent aperture extending between inward and outward sides of the base member; and  
            a vent cover removably coupleable to the outward side of the base member, the vent cover comprising a hood member disposed to shield the vent aperture.



43. The vent of claim 42 wherein the base member comprises an outwardly projecting intermediate base flange which is spaced apart from the vent aperture, the intermediate base flange comprising a bottom drainage flange which projects outwardly and downwardly from beneath the vent aperture for conveying moisture on a surface thereof, wherein when the mounting flange is received between the layers of the building surface, an outermost edge of the bottom drainage flange projects outwardly past the outermost one of the one or more external building surface layers.
44. The vent of claim 43 wherein the intermediate base flange comprises a pair of outwardly projecting side portions which extend upwardly from above the bottom drainage flange on either side of the vent aperture.
45. The vent of claim 44 wherein the intermediate base flange comprises an outwardly projecting upper portion located above the vent aperture and extending between the two side portions of the intermediate base flange.
46. The vent of claim 42 wherein the base member comprises an interior base flange, an inner portion of which projects inwardly from the inward side of the base member.
47. A method for installing a vent within a building surface to provide fluid communication through one or more building apertures in the building surface, the method comprising:
- mounting a base member to an internal building surface layer such that a vent aperture in the base member is in fluid communication with the one or more building apertures;

after mounting the base member, installing one or more external building surface layers onto the internal building surface layer, such that the one or more external building surface layers overlap a portion of the base member; and

- 5           after installing one or more external building surface layers, removably mounting a vent cover to the base member, the vent cover extending downwardly and outwardly from above the vent aperture to a location that is outside of the outermost one of the one or more external building surface layers.

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